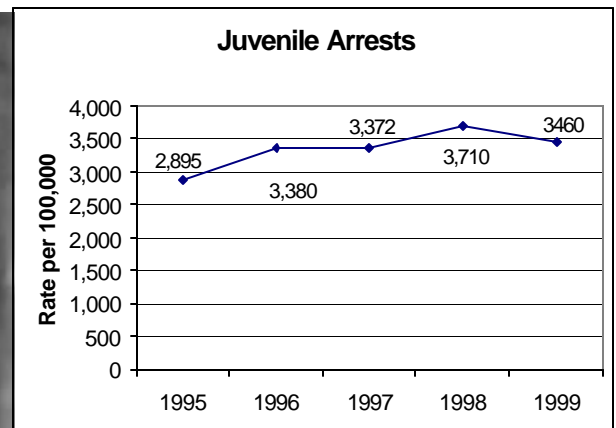
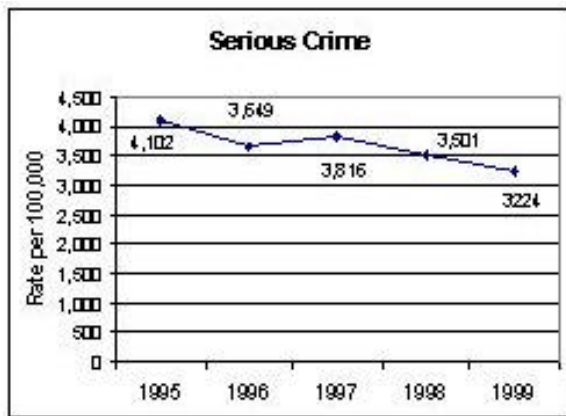


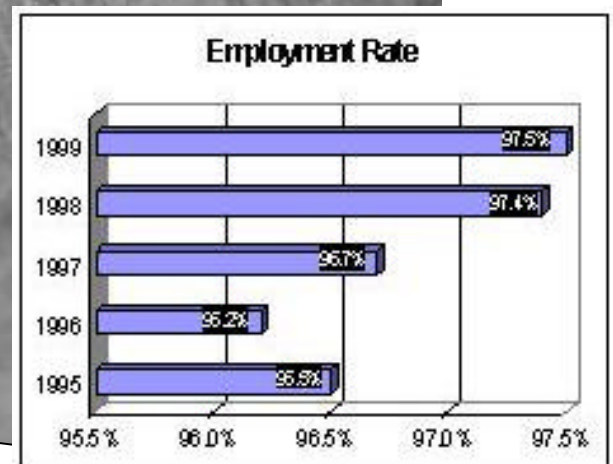
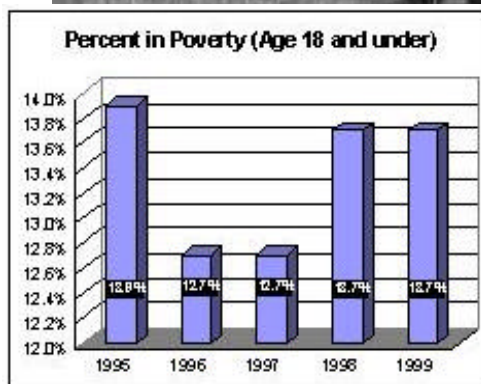
Safe and Supportive Communities

Collaboration and local decision making are basic principles of Community Empowerment. It is believed that citizens in their own communities will identify and implement the best means for attaining desired results. Area empowerment boards comprised of community leaders including education, health, human services, faith, business and consumers work together to plan and fund programs that will best meet the needs of their local community. Implementation of community plans focusing on early childhood establishes the structure and community supports necessary to ensure on-going success.



The incidence of murder, rape, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, larceny, and motor vehicle theft has continued to drop since 1995.

There have been notable increases in simple assault, larceny, and drug offenses. There have been notable drops in aggravated assault, burglary, and stolen property offenses.



With an approximate rate of 13% of children in poverty, the 2001 Kids Count ranks Iowa as 6th best in the nation.

The employment rate for Iowans 16 years and older continued to grow since 1996.

Progress Towards Results from Community Empowerment Areas

Safe and Supportive Communities

Lakes Area Decategorization/Empowerment (Clay, Dickinson, O'Brien & Osceola Counties)

Local Identified Need/Priority:

In-home Parent Support and
Education/Improved Safety of Children

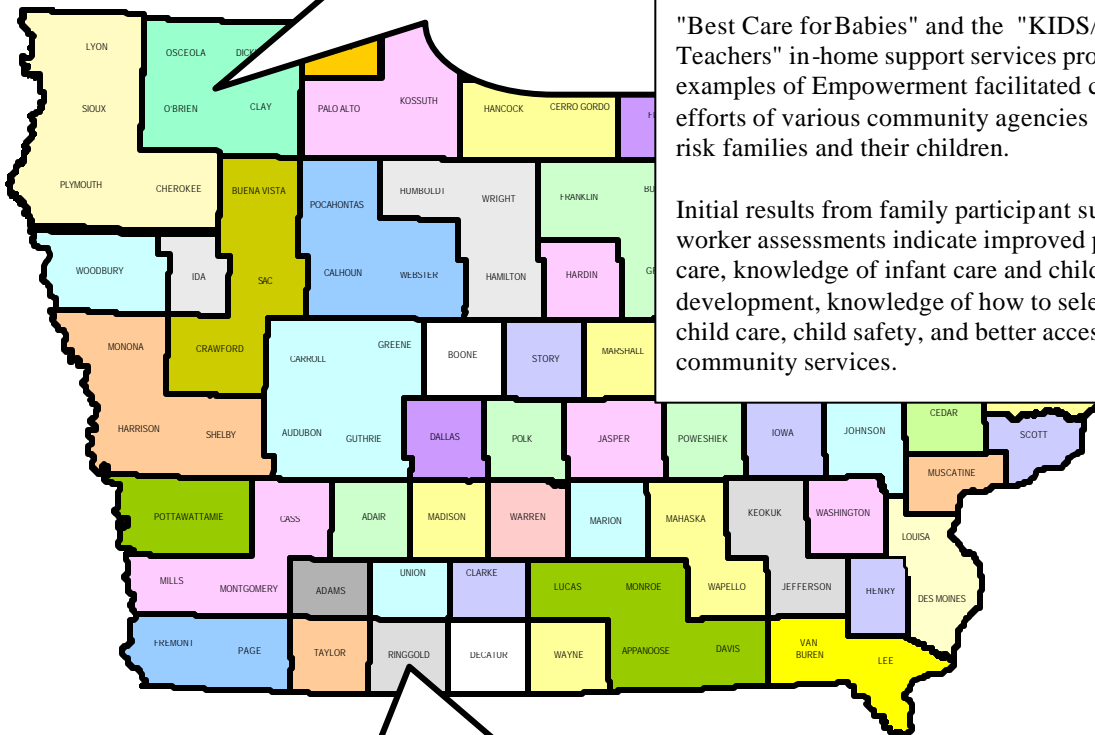
Local Indicator: Child Abuse Rate

Goal: Reduce Child Abuse

Strategy(ies): In-home visitation and parent education

"Best Care for Babies" and the "KIDS/Parents and Teachers" in-home support services programs are examples of Empowerment facilitated collaborative efforts of various community agencies serving at risk families and their children.

Initial results from family participant surveys and worker assessments indicate improved pre-natal care, knowledge of infant care and child development, knowledge of how to select quality child care, child safety, and better access to community services.



Ringgold County

Local Identified Need/Priority:

Children will be immunized

Goal: 97% of all children will be fully immunized by age 2

Local Indicator: Immunization Rate

Strategy(ies): Increased collaboration and public awareness trainings

Immunization Rate for 2 Year Olds
(Ringgold County)

